



Please join us!

North Carolina will be first in the nation! And you can help! North Carolina is developing an individual education certification system for the early childhood workforce. The NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development and Child Care Services Association is teaming up with our state's early childhood partners to create the **first early educator certification system** in the United States!

The certification system will be piloted this summer and fall providing up to 5,000 identified teachers and family child care home providers with an opportunity to become **certified for free**! Just like nurses, hairdressers, accountants and many other professions, individuals who work in the early childhood field will be certified based on their level of education.

Who created the certification system? The certification system has been collectively designed by the Institute, Child Care Services Association, the L.E.E.D. Advisory Committee and Institute partners over the past two years. Partners include the NC Division of Child Development, NC Partnership for Children and local Smart Start Partnerships, NC Office of School Readiness, NC Head Start Collaboration Office, NC Child Care Resource & Referral Council and local agencies, Child Care WAGE\$® Project, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project and many others!

Who is eligible to be part of the certification pilot project? A limited number of teachers and family child care providers are able to enter the new education certification system at no charge between now and November 30, 2008. Up to 4,500 participants from the current pool of Child Care WAGE\$® who have worked with children ages 0 – 5 in center or home settings and who have worked in the setting for at least one year may participate in the pilot at no charge. In addition, a small pool of non-eligible WAGE\$® participants from across the state will be identified and certified for free.

When will the pilot project begin? The pilot project will take place between July – December 2008.

Want to learn more? Attend a **free** information session to learn more about early educator certification. Space is limited so please send an RSVP to debra@debratorrenceconsulting.com for more details.

July 31	Greensboro	1 – 3 PM
August 1	Hendersonville	1 - 3 PM
August 12 (FULL)	Selma	1 – 3 PM
August 12	Fayetteville	6:30 - 8:30 PM (FTCC Campus)
Sept 4	Rocky Mount	6:30 - 8:30 PM
Sept 8	Nags Head	6:30 - 8:30 PM
Sept 9	Washington	1 - 3 PM (BCC Campus)
Sept 11	Boone	6:30 - 8:30 PM (ASU Campus)
Sept 17	Asheboro	Noon – 2 PM (RCC Campus)
Sept 22	Durham	6:30 – 8:30 PM
Oct 8	Statesville	1 - 3 PM
Oct 8	Charlotte	6 - 8 PM
Nov 12	Pinehurst	1 - 3 PM
Nov 12	Wilmington	6:30 - 8:30 PM

Hope to see you soon as we work together to support North Carolina taking the next step toward professionalizing the early childhood workforce!

Sincerely,

Debra Torrence, Coordinator
NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development